

# CATHOLICS HONOR DANTE'S MEMORY

Many Attend Exercises Marking Sixth Centenary of Poet's Death

## DISTINGUISHED GUESTS

The sixth centenary of the death of Dante, the great Florentine, was celebrated by exercises conducted in the Academy of Music by the Catholic Alumni Society of Philadelphia under the auspices of St. Joseph's College, last night.

Many distinguished persons were present—Cardinal Dougherty, Rear Admiral Louis Mack Nicholson, Major Moore, Rear Admiral William S. Benson (retired), a score of men of high dignities of the Catholic Church and prominent educators.

The motive actuating the observance was outlined by the Rev. Dr. Matthew J. Fortier as "a religious, academic and civic tribute to the greatest lay mind of the age, a thorough philosopher, poet, loyal son of the Church and patriot, whose influence and fame already have endured in increasing intensity 600 years."

**Receives Telegrams**

"Your eminence," Dr. Fortier continued, "these ecologists and the faculty of St. Joseph's College, have drawn the ardent words of His Holiness in his recent encyclical on the sixth centenary of Dante, a document unique in history, have organized for their own expense and that of their friends this celebration as a tribute to the diocese of the city of Philadelphia to the memory of Dante, a pledge of loyalty to your eminence and an expression of their joy at your elevation as Cardinal, and through you an offering to the Holy Father, Vicar of Jesus Christ our Lord, the omnium in whose love, in unifying song, 'Diving Commedia' after 600 years still sings."

Dr. Ernest LaPlante, the chairman read several telegrams, one being from Vice President Coolidge and another from Governor Sprull.

"There is a tendency throughout the course of civilization," said Dr. LaPlante, "to let the material bear down on the spiritual. Now that a new order of things has come about it must start on the higher plane of the dominion of the spiritual over the material."

"The world was sick," a great doctor arose in this country. He has transformed the City of Washington into a great world hospital. President Harding is the best physician. Dante lives today that the United States may show the light to a greater world prosperity."

**Poeh and Dante Compared**

Admiral Benson in a short address stressed his belief that those who have accomplished things were men who put their trust in God. From that he drew a comparison between Poeh and Dante.

The principal speaker of the evening was Dr. Austin O'Malley, who spoke on the "Character and Temperament of Dante." He reviewed European history affecting conditions leading up to the political conditions in the time of Dante, the political beliefs of the Florentine poet, his life and the factors that formed his character. In reviewing the philosophy and theology interwoven in his poetry, the speaker said that Dante "is not and will never be popular, because he is difficult to understand."

The Rev. Albert G. Brown, president of St. Joseph's College, made a short

## Samoa Governor



CAPT. EDWIN T. POLLOCK, U.S.N. Whose appointment to be Governor of the Samoan Islands has just been announced by Secretary of the Navy Denby. Captain Pollock will succeed Captain Waldo Evans

address and placed a laurel wreath on a marble bust of the poet.

A poem in praise of Dante was read by Dr. Thomas Douglas Joseph Gallagher. Another poem was recited by Clara Goulden.

A fine feature of the program was the singing of the Psalteria (Choir under the leadership of Nicola A. Montanari, Music Director in Dante's time) as compositions employing writings of the poet were used exclusively. Last night's "Dante Sonata" was played as a piano solo by Miss Agnes Rappan-glueck.

## TEACHERS IN JUNIOR HIGH ATTACK FINEGAN SCHEDULE

**Tell Board They Suffer in Pay and General Rating**

There is dissatisfaction among teachers of the junior high schools and those of the School of Practice over their pay and rating generally, under the Finegan schedule, which has been in operation for several months. Some members of the board do not assuage the feelings of the teachers on the question.

Representatives of the junior high schools complained of conditions existing at a meeting of the Salary Commission. They pointed out the new schedule brought about inequitable conditions and that teachers of many years' experience were not in the same class with those who had taught only a short time.

David H. Stout, principal of the Junior School of Practice, pointed out that under the schedule principals of such schools were increased only \$200 while the assistants were advanced \$700.

## Overheated Stove Causes Fire

An overheated stove caused a fire in the home of Hugh McCrossin, 3021 South Taylor street, early this morning. An alarm was sent in by a neighbor who saw smoke coming from a window, but the fire was put out by McCrossin before the firemen arrived.

## WEST CHESTER FIRE TRUCK CAN'T TURN SOME CORNERS

New Hook and Ladder Too Big and Needs Special Home, but Citizens Are Proud of Its Bright Red Paint

Well, West Chester is fairly well protected against the ravaging flames at last, but it was a long hard pull.

The new hook-and-ladder, pride of the fire department, is ready to answer any call that does not emanate from a street too narrow to turn into.

After Lon Smith's livery stable was burned to the ground some time ago, the relief gained general residence in West Chester that nothing but the latest equipment would answer the needs of the community. Accordingly, the City Fathers got together and authorized the purchase of the most up-to-date fire-fighting equipment that the land afforded.

It was whispered around town that the darned thing was going to cost as much as \$10,000.

Shortly after that a beautiful red and nickel hook-and-ladder truck arrived in the city limits and everybody went down to look it over. There was no doubt about it; it was a credit to the town.

No Home for Stranger

At this juncture a slight difficulty arose. It was found that the addition to the rear of the fire house was not yet completed, and there was no place to put the new acquisition. It was so long that it was feared that it would not fit into any existing structure.

A prolonged debate resulted in the decision to try to put it in the regular truck room, perhaps leaving the front door open, if need be. A suggestion

that a fair tent be rented to cover it, was not even given consideration.

Accordingly, the fire engine and hose cart were moved as far to one side as was possible, and the new hook-and-ladder was maneuvered cautiously to the door. By dint of half an hour's backing and filling, it was finally fitted snugly between the hose cart and the wall.

Various evening critics, gathered around the ornamental brass cuspidor in the hotel, attempted to heap ridicule upon the new device on the ground that there is only one building in town whose

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upper stories cannot be reached with a step-ladder. These reactionaries were silenced by the retort that there would soon be more.

The first subsequent alarm was hardly one that necessitated the presence of a large hook-and-ladder truck, being a small conflagration in which the principal elements were an old farm wagon and a can of kerosene. However, it was thought well to bring it out and see how it acted in an emergency, and so out it came.

**Starts on Malden Run**

Not quite as easily as that, however, by virtue of extreme care and consummate skill on the part of its fearless driver, the apparatus was induced to leave its lair unscathed, and the journey to the scene of action was begun.

At this point an embarrassing fact was brought to light. There were certain corners in town around which it simply could not be coaxed. Needless to say, the great length of the apparatus required a wide turning radius, and this was lacking on some of the smaller thoroughfares.

Nothing daunted, the crew took it to the fire by way of Main street and some of the wider avenues, although a few of them were a tight squeeze.

In the meantime the fire, such as it was, had gone out. This circumstance

had little effect upon the enthusiasm with which the appearance of the gallant fire-fighters was greeted, and it was at once decided to see how the thing worked.

**Even Rehearsal Was Halted**

Accordingly, the order was given to unship the ladders and go through the motions. This would have been done had it not developed that nobody knew how the pesky things were unshipped. There was some safety device which refused to succumb to any but a personal friend.

However, a matter of new and novel enterprise is always attended at birth by minor difficulty of this sort, and it

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